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9/20/22

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

A circular stamp from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The text "O I P E" is at the top, "J C 177" is at the top right, "MAY 02 2002" is in the center, and "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE" is at the bottom. The word "et al." is written to the left of the stamp, and the number "59" is at the bottom left.

Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: 2185

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May 2, 2002

MAY 06 2002

Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group Art Unit</u>	<u>Status</u>
09/136,067	August 19, 1998	3726	Allowed
09/824,748	April 4, 2001	2614	Pending
09/973,838	October 11, 2001	2185	Pending
09/826,911	April 6, 2001	2673	Pending
10/066,620	February 6, 2002	2671	Pending

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of each of the cited U.S. applications are enclosed.

FORMAL MATTERS

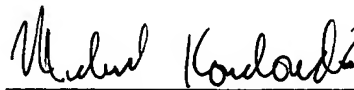
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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